

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 01266 202000Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /072 W
-----087338 211131Z /14

R 201840Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 057
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1266

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IT, PINT
SUBJECT: AMENDOLA'S VIEWS ON CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL ISSUES

1. VISITING YALE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR LA PALOMBARA
GAVE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF A
CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH PCI DIRECTORATE MEMBER
GIORGIO AMENDOLA ON JANUARY 18TH. PALOMBARA BEGAN
THE CONVERSATION BY ASKING AMENDOLA WHY THE PCI HAD
QUICKENED THE PACE AND FORCED THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS.
AMENDOLA REPLIED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL ASPECTS.
FIRST, THE PCI IS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH ITS BASE AND
WITH DGIL, THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED TRADE UNION. THE
DEMAND FOR AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT AND MORE EFFECTIVE
ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES,
AS WELL AS LAW AND ORDER, WAS ESSENTIAL AS A GUESTURE
TOWARD THE DISCONTENT AT THE BASE. SECONDLY, THE
ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT DID SEEM WORN OUT, INEFFECTIVE,
AND UNWILLING TO PROCEED WITH ESSENTIAL LEGISLATION.
FOR EXAMPLE, AMENDOLA SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S BEHAVIOR
ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL MADE LIFE IMPOSSIBLE FOR
THE PCI. THEY HAVE GOTTEN ESTIMATES FROM THE GOVERN-
MENT OF A DEFICIT RANGING FROM 14,000 BILLION LIRE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 01266 202000Z

30,000 BILLION LIRE AND THEY SUSPECT THAT THE REAL
FIGURE IS CLOSER TO THE 35,000 BILLION LIRE. IN
ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO GO FORWARD
WITH A REAL AND NEEDED REFORM OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES. (AMENDOLA DID NOT SAY WHAT REFORMS THE
PCI WANTS, BUT WAS APPARENTLY REFERRING TO SOMETHING
BROADER THAN THE POLICE UNION ISSUE.)

2. PALOMBARA ASKED AMENDOLA WHETHER THE BERLINGUER-AMENDOLA LINE RE THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE AND THE GRADUAL APPROACH IS FALLING APART. AMENDOLA REPLIED CRISPLY SAYING THAT "WE" (I.E., THE BERLINGUER GROUP) HAD PROPOSED THE BREAK WITH THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHAT THE PCI CAN ACCEPT TO RESOLVE THE PRESENT CRISIS, AMENDOLA STATED STRONGLY THAT THE PCI PREFERS AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE SIX PARTIES BUT IS OBVIOUSLY WILLING TO LISTEN TO PROPOSALS OF OTHERS. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PCI DOES NOT FEAR A DC THREAT OF ELECTIONS. THE PCI DOES NOT WANT ELECTIONS BUT WILL ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE IF IT IS MADE. HE SAID THAT THE RESULT WILL FORCE THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE EVEN MORE THAN DOES THE PRESENT SITUATION BECAUSE BOTH PARTIES WOULD GAIN IN THE ELECTIONS WITH AN EVEN GREATER POLARIZATION THAN THERE IS NOW. SIMILARLY, THEY DON'T TAKE SERIOUSLY A DC THREAT TO FORCE THE PCI INTO THE OPPOSITION SINCE, AFTER ALL, GOING INTO THE OPPOSITION WOULD NEATLY RESOLVE THE PCI'S PRESENT INTERNAL PROBLEMS. TURNING TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, AMENDOLA SAID THE PCI WOULD NOT ACCEPT TECHNICIAN MINISTERS IF THEY CAME FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE ELECTED AS "INDEPENDENTS" ON THE PCI ELECTORAL LISTS. IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 01266 202000Z

PARTICULAR THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT SPAVENTA BECAUSE THE US SEEMS SO ACTIVELY OPPOSED TO HIM. THE PCI MIGHT CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE OTHER NON-DC TECHNICIANS AND MINISTERS IF IT WERE ACCOMPANIED BY PUTTING THE PCI INTO PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY.

4. AMENDOLA COMMENTED THAT THE PSI IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THE DC TO JOIN AS A COALITION PARTNER OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. AMENDOLA STATED THAT THE PSI WILL NOT JOIN IN A NEW GOVERNMENT IF THE PCI DOES NOT AGREE. THE PCI WILL NOT AGREE IF IT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. AMENDOLA EXCLUDED A REWORKING OF THE FORMULA USED IN THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT THAT JUST FAILED. AS HE PUT IT, THE GOVERNMENT OF ABSTENTIONS IS FINISHED AND THE PCI WILL REQUIRE A GENUINE STEP FORWARD AS THE PRICE OF ITS COOPERATION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL STABILITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME01266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0867
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780140/aaaabhfm.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e21bc7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3740272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMENDOLA'S VIEWS ON CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, (AMENDOLA, GIORGIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e21bc7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014